



News Release

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SBA Names 2005 North Carolina Women in Business Champion of The Year

CHARLOTTE - Mary Elizabeth Murphy, Managing Director of performance management consulting and education firm S.T.A.R. Resources has been named the Small Business Administration's 2005 North Carolina Women in Business Champion of the Year for her commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership.

The award recognizes Murphy for her active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses, her efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women, her volunteer efforts to strengthen the role of women business owners within the community and other accomplishments demonstrating effectiveness in improving the environment for women in business.

Since starting her business in 1993, Murphy has been diligent in her efforts to increase business and financial opportunities for women who had been out of the workforce for an extended period of time and those that have experienced significant trauma in their lives. She is heavily involved in strengthening the self-esteem of displaced homemakers and victims of domestic violence through teaching communication, problem solving and relationship building skills.

As Charlotte's first and only registered Success Team Leader by the Sher Organization, Murphy is developing support groups of women who will help develop plans, share information and contacts, and provide guidance and encouragement to help team members achieve their goals.

Murphy has held leadership roles in numerous Charlotte-area organizations including serving as President of the Metropolitan Business and Professional Women, founding board member and President of WomenFIRST, and a member of the Advisory Committee for the Mecklenburg County Women's Commission Displaced Homemakers Program.

The North Carolina Women in Business Champion of the Year is awarded annually by the SBA, whose mission is to maintain and strengthen the nation's economy by aiding, counseling, assisting and protecting the interests of small businesses and by helping families and businesses recover from national disasters.

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